

What assistance is available?

- Short-term contracts to assist growers, producers, and farmers with applying practices such as irrigation, IPM, conversion to organic, cover crops, buffers, nutrient management, grazing, forest management, and more than 100 other practices.
- Technical assistance to help growers in carrying out the practices
- Financial assistance or incentive payments to reduce the cost to the producer

How to apply

- Contact a local USDA NRCS or Conservation District office, found at www.nrcs.usda.gov under Find a Service Center.
- Request an updated conservation plan.
- Complete an application for one of the cost share or incentive programs.

When to apply

- Sign-up for programs is continuous.
- The applications are grouped and ranked monthly, so it's best to apply early.
- Contracts are written as long as funding lasts.

Are all growers eligible?

- Some programs are only available to farmers who have at least \$1,000 in gross receipts.
- Other programs do not require farmer eligibility.
- New and beginning farmers, African Americans, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians or Pacific Islanders may be eligible for additional incentive payments in some programs.



www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

For Spanish language assistance call 1-866-232-0690

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February 2009

USDA Assistance for Sustainable Agriculture





Native grasses are excellent for nest-ing birds, good **pollinators** if forb mix is included, and improve **soil quality**. Environmental Quality Incentive (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)



Fewer herbicides for weed control and **less water** are required when effectively using cover crops.



Grass-fed beef thrive on pastures im-proved through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



Certified organic can be accomplished through a conservation plan designed for conversion to organic.



Vegetable crops are successfully raised through **water conserving** irrigation sys-tems supported by the Agricultural Man-agement Assistance (AMA) Program.



Effectively using manure through **nutrient management planning** improves yields and water quality



Fruit crops use **fewer pesticides** when producers follow **IPM**.



Sustainable Forests will be targeted through USDA NRCS program funding in 2009 in the following conservation land-scape areas for those who already have a current Forest Stewardship Plan approved by DCNR.

Laurel Highlands
South Mountain
Lower Susquehanna Riverlands
PA Wilds – Tioga, Lycoming,
Bradford and Sullivan counties
only